

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the committee, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP), and the ranking member, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS), as well as the gentleman from New York (Mr. SWEENEY).

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I want to thank again the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS), the ranking member, and the gentleman from New York (Mr. QUINN), the chairman of the subcommittee, as well as the ranking member of that subcommittee for all their work in bringing this to the floor.

I also want to commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. SWEENEY) for all the hard work he has done and for sponsoring this bill, as the chief sponsor.

Mr. Speaker, this may be the last bill the Committee on Veterans' Affairs brings to the House floor under suspension, and I believe we can be very proud of the legislative achievements we have passed in the House during this last 106th Congress. From health care, to disability compensation and national cemetery issues, the House has maintained its bipartisan tradition. By working together, with the best interest of veterans in mind, and putting partisan politics aside, Congress has improved the lives of veterans and their families throughout the Nation.

I want to express my appreciation to the leadership of this House, to the members of the committee, and especially to the chairmen of the subcommittees and their ranking members. And I want to single out and offer a special note of thanks to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS), the ranking Democrat of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for all his work and for the legislation that we have been able to enact. He and his staff have been truly great to work with this year, as well as previous years. He is thoroughly committed to improving the lives of veterans; and due to his contributions to the legislative process, we have improved our work products immensely.

I want to acknowledge the contribution of the majority staff for this committee's work. Staff plays a key role in getting bills enacted, and it is important to recognize the contribution they make to the legislative process, and I thank them all for the work that they have done this year. That said, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 284.

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as a cosponsor of H.R. 284, to support this measure, the "Honor Guard for Veterans Empowerment Act." This bill does a tremendous service to the men and women who so honorably served our country to preserve the freedom and prosperity we enjoy today. There is

no doubt that those women and men deserve to have an Honor Guard funeral on their burial day. The Honor Guard for Veterans Empowerment Act is a critical piece in fulfilling this country's obligation to our Veteran community.

As the member who represents Congressman Sonny Montgomery's district I am proud to continue his legacy as a defender of our Veterans' rights. I believe this legislation continues the work he left in defending and honoring those who served this country in the time of greatest need.

I strongly support the Defense Departments January 1st, 2000 decision, ensuring that all veterans desiring a military funeral will have the opportunity. This legislation makes that commitment viable. H.R. 284 responds to the 21% growth in request for an honor guard funeral. It is critical that we have the resources to provide the greatest generation with the honor they are due on the day they are laid to rest.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 284, which will allow Reservists to serve at military funerals by granting them the necessary release of time from their civilian jobs. Active military personnel are shrinking in numbers and the number of funerals performed are rising each year. Add to this the new policy adopted by the Department of Defense ensuring that all veterans receive a proper military honor funeral, and we must call upon the Reservists to perform occasionally in this capacity. These people should be supported for their willingness to serve this function and this bill will protect them in regard to their civilian employers. For these reasons I urge passage of this important bill.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 284, the Honor Guard for Veterans Empowerment Act. I urge my colleagues to join in supporting this urgently needed legislation.

H.R. 284 sets in statute language protecting the performance of voluntary inactive-duty funeral honors by Reserve component members. This is an important development in light of the increase in military funerals over the past 2 years.

Last year the Congress passed legislation requiring the Department of Defense to provide personnel for military funerals whenever an eligible veteran's family made such a request. However, manpower shortages in our active duty forces have made fulfillment of this task problematic.

Moreover, the number of requests by veterans and their families for military honors at funerals is on the rise. During the first 6 months of 2000, the number of such requests was 21 percent higher over the same period in the previous year.

As a result of these two factors, the Department of Defense has had to place an increasing reliance on its Reserve components for the performance of their duties. Yet current regulations do not reflect this reality, offering small compensation to the Reservist in exchange for the possible loss of a full-time job.

H.R. 284 protects Reservists by ensuring the performance of voluntary inactive-duty funeral honors by Reserve component members is protected under title 38, United States Code, chapter 43. It also offers additional incentives to reservists for the performing of

these duties, and educates employers about the vital role played by reservists in veterans funerals.

Mr. Speaker, since this legislation is desperately needed, I urge my colleagues to lend it their wholehearted support.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 284, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for approximately 10 minutes.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 53 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess for approximately 10 minutes.

□ 1101

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PEASE) at 11 o'clock and 1 minute a.m.

SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING FIGHT AGAINST BREAST CANCER

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 278) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the importance of education, early detection and treatment, and other efforts in the fight against breast cancer.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 278

Whereas an estimated 175,000 women and 1,300 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer in 1999, and an estimated 43,300 women and 400 men will die of the disease;

Whereas breast cancer is the most common form of cancer among women, excluding skin cancers;

Whereas breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among all women and the leading cause of cancer death among women between ages 40 and 55;

Whereas breast cancer can often be treated most successfully if detected early on;

Whereas education, regular clinical and self-examinations, regular mammograms, and biopsies (when appropriate) are critical to detecting and treating breast cancer in a timely manner;

Whereas the American Cancer Society recommends that all women aged 40 and over have annual screening mammograms and clinical breast examinations by health professionals, that women aged 20 to 39 have clinical examinations every three years, and

that all women aged 20 and over perform a breast self-examination every month; and

Whereas the House of Representatives as an institution and Members of Congress as individuals are in unique positions to help raise public awareness about the detection and treatment of breast cancer and to support the fight against breast cancer: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) all Americans, and above all women, should take an active role in the fight against breast cancer by using all the means available to them, including regular clinical and self-examinations, regular mammograms, and biopsies (when appropriate);

(2) the role played by national and community organizations and health care providers in promoting awareness of the importance of regular clinical and self-examinations, regular mammograms, and biopsies (when appropriate), and in providing information, support, and access to services, should be recognized and applauded; and

(3) the Federal Government has a responsibility to—

(A) endeavor to raise awareness about the importance of the early detection of, and proper treatment for, breast cancer;

(B) continue to fund research so that the causes of, and improved treatment for, breast cancer may be discovered; and

(C) continue to consider ways to improve access to, and the quality of, health services for detecting and treating breast cancer.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN).

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. In our country this year, 175,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer. That is very personal to me in that my sister has been diagnosed with it, my sister-in-law, and a very close first cousin recently died of this disease.

The facts that face American women is one in eight women in this country will encounter this disease at some time in the future. Prevention is a key to diagnosis. And as a practicing physician that has diagnosed multiple women with breast cancer, I know the importance of improving awareness and improving the knowledge of women in our country and men as to the preventive measures that can take place.

I also think it is incumbent upon me to make sure that the American public is aware of the connection between the incidence of breast cancer and abortion.

There has now been, throughout the United States and Europe, 32 studies of which 29 absolutely connect a marked increase in the likelihood of breast cancer when one has had an abortion. That goes up if that abortion occurred before 18 or after 30, but nevertheless, the risk is twofold.

Unfortunately, many in our country do not want the benefits of that sci-

entific data known, and that is unfortunate. Nevertheless, I think the key thing is that we want women to be aware of what they can do to protect themselves against breast cancer. We want to encourage the awareness on the part of women in our country for risk factors associated with that besides family members, smoking, as well as abortion.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 278, the importance of education, early detection and treatment, and other efforts in fighting breast cancer. I will be brief because I believe we will have a handful of speakers that want to talk on this.

As my friend the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) said, October is National Breast Cancer Month. One out of eight women in this country will at some point in their lives be diagnosed with breast cancer.

Nothing is more important than early detection. Clearly, we know that nothing is more important than education and women doing everything from self-examination to mammograms to making sure that they make frequent visits to the doctor and especially examinations after the age of 40.

We founded in Ohio some time ago, about 6 or 7 years ago, the Northeast Ohio Breast Cancer Task Force. That task force has been especially active in working with local physicians and nurses and working with other providers and especially has been active in educating women of all ages throughout Northeast Ohio in terms of education and in terms of self-examination and all of that.

So, Mr. Speaker, this resolution is important for all of us. It is important for our daughters and for our wives and for our mothers and for our sisters and for our families.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS).

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Oklahoma for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to rise to ask my colleagues to support this breast cancer awareness resolution, a similar one I introduced last year, as well, which also passed.

This will indeed be the second consecutive Congress to pass such a resolution. I look forward to building on this work with my colleagues in future Congresses.

I also want to thank the House leadership and the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman BLILEY) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS)

and, of course, the gentlemen on both sides of the aisle here for their help and leadership on this issue, as well as the leadership of Members like the gentlewoman from California (Ms. DUNN) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BENTSEN) as well as over a hundred other Members of Congress who chose to cosponsor this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution outlines the devastating impact that breast cancer has on far too many women as well as men every single year. But it also notes the critical difference that education, early detection and effective treatment can make.

Moreover, it reminds each and every one of us of the role that we can play both as individual Members and as an institution in educating our constituents and raising awareness of breast cancer. And that is really the key to this resolution. The Congress can play a role in communicating an important message to the American people and that message and the effective communication of it may save countless lives over the next year.

Now, the last decade saw a leveling off of the incidence rate and an increase in the survival rate. But as we heard a minute ago, breast cancer continues to remain the most common form of cancer among women and the second leading cause of cancer deaths nationwide.

More than 180,000 women and some 1,400 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year; and nearly 41,000 women and 400 men will die of this disease.

Mr. Speaker, no woman, no man, no family should have to suffer all that comes with breast cancer. But each and every one of us must do everything we can to raise awareness of this disease and the importance and methods of early detection and treatment.

As was mentioned before, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month; and National Mammography Day is on October 20. With this in mind, I urge my colleagues to pass this resolution today and to adhere to its call upon us all to fight this deadly disease.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I have a couple of comments.

The Congress is considering H. Res. 278, which it is late in the session, and this is a good thing. As I said, I support it. I am a cosponsor. It seems like if we look at this, virtually every Member of the House almost is a cosponsor. But this is a resolution that other than saying, we are against breast cancer, we are fighting against breast cancer, we as a body want to go on record saying we think breast cancer is a bad thing, encouraging women to do self-examination beginning at the age of 20, encouraging women between 20 and 40

to get every-three-year examinations from their doctor, encouraging women from 40 to get annual examinations especially if they have a family history, all of those things, and this Congress has not, Mr. Speaker, tackled the real issues in health care.

We still have not passed a prescription drug bill through this Congress. We still have not passed a Patients' Bill of Rights through this Congress. It is locked in conference committee. We still have not sent to the President the Ryan White bill. We still have not sent to the President the bill on health disparities. The real issues that we ought to be addressing we have simply shunted aside.

We are passing this resolution. Again, I support this resolution. But we are passing resolutions that say nice things and tell us all to do good things, but we simply are not moving in the direction this Congress should move.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to my friend, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) for yielding me the time and also recognize and commend the work of the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS) for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, breast cancer is the most common form of cancer in America excluding skin cancers and claims the lives of approximately 40,000 women in the United States each year. My friend, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), has brought this to our attention time and time again on health matters.

An estimated three million women in the United States are living with breast cancer. Another two million have been diagnosed. And an estimated one million do not yet know they have the disease.

One out of every eight women in the United States will develop breast cancer in her lifetime, a risk that was one out of 14 in 1960. So we are making progress. But it is not good enough.

This year a new case will be diagnosed every 3 minutes, and a woman will die from breast cancer every 12 minutes. Of all women diagnosed with breast cancer, 48 percent will die from it within 20 years.

This resolution recognizes the importance of education, early detection and treatment of breast cancer, which is critical to millions of women and men and their families across this country.

This resolution is especially timely because October is the month we recognize this horrible disease. All across America people are walking, spreading education materials, sponsoring free mammograms, and hosting charity walks to commemorate loved ones that are still fighting the battle against breast cancer.

As Members of Congress, we have a responsibility to follow the tenet laid out in this resolution. We must raise the profile of the significance, the importance of regular checkups, breast self-examinations, and early mammograms.

I encourage my colleagues to do the same and to promote and participate in Breast Cancer Awareness Month activities across this country. I commend those who brought it to this floor, and I am proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation. I salute Members on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS) for his leadership on this resolution. It is important to note that in fact information is power and power leads to decisions that can save people's lives.

The other thing I would like to answer in direction to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and his comments, we have the breast and cervical awareness bill that is being held up at this very time. The reason it is not coming out of conference is because there are people who do not want women to have information about cervical cancer.

The fact that they are objecting to the fact that women would be notified that human papilloma virus, the number one sexually transmitted disease in the country that infects almost 40 million women today and 30 million men, is the number one cause 99 percent of the time that causes cervical cancer and we cannot get that bill that will help women of moderate and poor means the treatment that they need for breast and cervical cancer is because somebody does not want them to have that information.

And so, the people that do not want women to have that information are the people that do not want us to ever do anything despite the fact that condoms are not 100 percent effective protection, and in fact they are not protective at all according to the director of the NIH and the National Cancer Institute.

So, back to the subject at hand. This is an important bill. I am very thankful to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS), as is the whole Committee on Commerce, for his leadership in this.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1115

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS) for bringing this resolution to the floor today. Increased awareness is vital if we are, in fact, to

empower women in the fight against breast cancer. I thank my colleague for drawing attention to this issue.

Over the past 10 years, we have made great strides in the fight against breast cancer through an increased investment in biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health. But sadly, for many women, the fight against breast cancer also means waging a battle with their HMO over the amount of time that they can stay in a hospital.

Studies have shown that the average hospital stay for breast cancer patients in Connecticut and across the Nation is decreasing. Despite the medical standard of 2 to 4 days to recuperate and gain physical and emotional strength, insurance companies regularly refuse to cover a hospital stay and women find themselves forced to leave the hospital only hours after surgery, still groggy from the anesthesia and in physical and emotional pain.

This is the reason I introduced the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act, H.R. 116. The legislation ensures that women receive the care they need and deserve while recovering from breast cancer surgery by guaranteeing a minimum stay of 48 hours for a woman who is having a mastectomy and 24 hours for a woman undergoing a lymph node removal. It simply says that any decision in favor of a longer or shorter hospital stay will be made by a doctor and a patient, not an HMO.

The bill has the bipartisan support of over 220 cosponsors, more than enough, I might add, to be able to pass this House. Yet regrettably the leadership of this House has refused to allow the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act to be considered on the floor. Resolutions and raising awareness are vital, and I wholeheartedly support this effort. It is through education and the awareness of this issue that, in fact, so much and so many of our resources have been directed at breast cancer. We also need to empower women as they struggle with breast cancer. I urge the leadership of this House to bring this bipartisan bill to the floor.

I have said on this floor many times in the past that I am a survivor of ovarian cancer. When I went home, I had a very loving family. They were not health care professionals but they cared deeply and took care of me. Having the additional stay in the hospital for someone who is facing a life-threatening illness is so critically important to both their physical well-being and survival as well as their emotional well-being and survival. We can pass a bill that has 220 cosponsors. It is a bipartisan bill. I hope that I can engage my colleagues in this effort to help us to bring this bill to the floor.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In response, I would just say I would hope that the gentlewoman would help us provide the knowledge about human

papilloma virus as she has on this because that causes 99 percent of the cervical cancer in this country and we have an attempt at covering up the pathogenesis and the significant penetration of that disease in this country. I thank the gentlewoman for her work.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY).

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation because this disease is too close for comfort for so many women and their families. On Long Island, one in nine women have had to face the living nightmare of breast cancer.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. I look forward to the day when we no longer have to dedicate a month to bring attention to this disease, because that will mean we have found a cure.

Mr. Speaker, as a nurse, I have seen firsthand the toll that this disease takes on everyone involved. In addition, my area has one of the highest incidences of breast cancer in the country. On Long Island, approximately 127 of every 100,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer compared with 100 of every 100,000 nationwide. Because of these frightening statistics, we must increase funding for research, we must find what the environmental causes are, we must raise awareness, and we must find a cure today, because time is running out for too many of our loved ones.

I urge all of my colleagues to pass this legislation and help find a cure today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BENTSEN).

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this legislation that would express the sense of the House of Representatives that all Americans should take an active role in the fight against breast cancer. As a cosponsor of this legislation, I believe it is vitally important that we raise awareness about this disease.

The statistics about breast cancer are alarming. In 1999, an estimated 175,000 Americans will be diagnosed with breast cancer. In addition, more than 45,000 Americans will die of this disease this year. Breast cancer is the leading cause of death among women aged 40 to 55. This legislation will help to educate more Americans about this disease and how early detection of breast cancer can save lives.

With early detection, many breast cancer patients can have successful outcomes. All Americans should use all of the diagnostic tools available to them to catch this disease in its earliest stages. If found, many breast cancers can be cured. However, late detection reduces the survival rates of these

patients. Today, all Americans should get regular clinical breast exams as well as mammograms. All women should also be encouraged to conduct monthly self-examinations. These self-examinations can empower women to learn more about their bodies and to seek treatment if irregularities are found. Women should also get biopsies when appropriate to determine whether any cancer is present.

This legislation would also urge the House of Representatives to provide maximum Federal funding for breast cancer research. As a cochair of the Congressional Biomedical Caucus, I am strongly supporting efforts to provide this funding for such research. Earlier this year, we voted in the fiscal year 2001 Department of Defense appropriations bill to include \$175 million in Federal funds for peer-reviewed breast cancer research.

I am also working to double the budget for the National Institutes of Health where much of our biomedical, basic clinical research is funded. For the past 2 years, we have successfully provided 15 percent more funding for the NIH. This year, the House is working to provide a \$20 billion budget for the NIH, the third installment on our 5-year effort to double the NIH's budget. Today, only one-third of peer-reviewed, merit-based research grants are funded by the NIH. This additional investment will ensure that our Nation's scientists have the resources they need to find a cure for breast cancer and other ailments. The NIH budget has not been finalized, but I am hopeful that we can get this passed.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we in Congress have a role in informing all Americans about breast cancer and the need for early detection. This legislation is an important first step in providing the information that Americans need to combat breast cancer while encouraging more Federal funding for finding a cure. I urge my colleagues to support the measure.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW).

Mr. SHAW. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill. I think the fact that we have Breast Cancer Awareness Month is a very positive step forward. There is technology out there that helps tremendously in early detection. I have a very special interest in this particular subject. My wife Emily lost both her sister and her mother to cancer, and they both had breast cancer. Obviously in my family, my daughters and my wife are very, very cautious to be sure that they have their regular mammograms and that they do what is necessary in order to find early detection should they be stricken with this terrible disease.

Also, I would like to point out the new technology, the digital technology

out there that is just now coming online. The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KLECZKA) and I have cosponsored a bill along with others in order to fund the digital equipment and this new technology. I would urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. BARRETT).

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. This is an important resolution and one that I hope all Members of the House will support as well.

This is important for me personally. Today is my mother's birthday, and I want to wish my mother a happy birthday. But I also want to tell my fellow Members that it is equally important because she is a breast cancer survivor, and she is able to celebrate this birthday because of the treatment that she received. This is a disease that, if treated at its earliest stages, is certainly a curable disease; and I think the message that we have to get across to all women in this country is the importance of self-examinations and the importance of getting treatment at the earliest possible stage.

In honor of my mother, I would urge all my fellow Members to support this resolution.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. Breast cancer, as the gentleman from Wisconsin said, is a formidable threat. Complacency is a luxury that we cannot afford, not when 180,000 women are diagnosed with breast cancer each year in this country, not when one in eight women will be diagnosed during their lifetime, not when 46,000 women die each year from this disease.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of H. Res. 278 which underscores how important it is to combat breast cancer with every tool at our disposal. It means early detection, it means education and efforts to raise public awareness, it means research, it means access to treatment. It is going to take this momentum of what all the people around the country are doing and a commensurate response from the public sector to fight and win this battle.

It is also going to take a Congress which does its job, not just in reminding the public that education, that early detection, that prevention, all of those are important but it is also going to take a Congress which does its job by passing a prescription drug bill which this Congress has failed to do, by passing the Patients' Bill of Rights which the House-Senate conference committee has locked up, with passing the Ryan White bill, with passing other legislation that really matters in the fight against breast cancer.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I want to relate a story about a woman by the name of Sharon Coburn Wetz. She was a scrub nurse RN for a surgeon in Midwest City, Oklahoma. The vast majority of her early career was spent in assisting on surgery of the breast. Ironically, in 1983 she developed breast cancer herself as a very young woman. This last year she died as a result of that disease. She spent the 15 years before she died doing nothing but helping other women in diagnosis, treatment and reaching for recovery as an expert in mammography, treatment medically and assistance in the breast cancer center at the University of Oklahoma. I think it is fitting that her name be mentioned at this time because in the true spirit of most women and most mothers, what she did was gave of herself.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS) for the concluding statements.

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. I want to thank all of my colleagues in this body for supporting this significant resolution. As we have seen, there is probably no Member of Congress who cannot cite someone close to them who has had breast cancer. I will only relate one individual who is close to me who died of breast cancer some 28 years ago during a time when treatment for breast cancer was barbaric at best. She was 48 years old when she was diagnosed, and she died at the age of 51. That individual was my mother.

I want to commend this Congress for paying special attention to this significant disease, celebrating the progress that we have made in the last 20 years but understanding that there is enormous work yet to go, and we all must put our shoulders to the wheel to find a cure for this horrible disease.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, today, I lend my wholehearted support to H. Res. 278, the Importance of Education and Early Detection in Fighting Breast Cancer Act and thank my colleague, Representative CHARLIE BASS, for introducing this resolution.

Breast cancer strikes an estimated 180,000 women a year and kills over 46,000 annually. As we all know, the best defense against this dreaded disease is early preventative screenings and treatment. This is crucial.

If cancer is detected, it is extremely important to have access to reliable and under-

standable information on breast cancer. Sources of knowledge and assistance, such as the American Cancer Society, deserve our thanks and recognition for their continued good work.

Americans also need information on all of the treatment options available to them. Unfortunately, I have learned this from personal experience.

Last January, my wife received the life-altering news that she had breast cancer. Despite her annual check-ups and mammograms, our doctors told us that she faced undergoing a radical bilateral mastectomy. We felt extreme shock that the prognosis was so drastic.

However, after much research on the subject, she made the decision that this was indeed the best option for her. Her surgery was a complete success, and she has not even required any followup chemotherapy or medication.

So, I close with the same message—We must support and encourage the utilization of all of the modern-day prevention, detection and treatment options available. Our experience has shown us that this is essential in the battle against breast cancer.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 278 and in honor of the millions of women who have shown the strength and courage to fight back against breast cancer. Breast cancer is the most common form of cancer among women in the United States. This year, almost 182,800 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed and an estimated 40,800 women will die from this terrible disease.

Breast cancer touches not only the lives of those afflicted with the disease, but also their loved ones. Recently, my fellow North Dakotans came together to pray for a courageous woman, a woman who has dedicated her life to improving the health and welfare of others. Heidi Heitkamp, our state Attorney General, was diagnosed with breast cancer. Like so many afflicted with this disease, however, the strength, determination, and sheer will that Heidi has displayed through this most difficult of times has been an inspiration to her family, friends and all who know her.

Mr. Speaker, the story of Heidi Heitkamp, like that of so many other women, is also a story of hope. Each year, the number of deaths caused by breast cancer has slowly fallen. Increased education and increased technology has extended the life and increased the survival rate of those afflicted with this disease. The fight against breast cancer can be won. I call on my colleagues to join the fight by increasing funding for breast cancer research, increasing access to screening and treatment options, and increasing awareness. I call on my colleagues to fight for the lives of their mothers, sisters and other loved ones.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 278, which expresses the sense of the House that all Americans, and above all women, should take an active role in the fight against breast cancer by using all the means available to them, including regular clinical and self-examinations, regular mammograms, and biopsies.

By calling for greater awareness and education for all women, may will benefit from early detection and by following up a screen-

ing with medical treatment, fewer women will succumb to this devastating disease.

Mr. Speaker, this issue is especially important to me and to my constituents, especially those in Rockland County. Recent studies have found that Rockland County has the highest rate of breast cancer in New York State and according to some studies, in the Nation. This legislation will help inform many of my constituents of how they can take an active role in the fight against breast cancer. Moreover, this resolution applauds and recognizes the role played by national and community organizations and health care providers in promoting awareness of the importance of regular clinical and self-examinations, regular mammograms, and biopsies and in providing information, support, and access to services. I strongly support this legislation and urge my colleagues to fund support this measure.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 278.

The question was taken.

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CERVICAL CANCER PUBLIC AWARENESS RESOLUTION

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 64) recognizing the severity of the issue of cervical health, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 64

Whereas cervical cancer annually strikes an estimated 15,000 women in the United States;

Whereas during an average woman's lifetime cervical cancer strikes one out of every 50 American women;

Whereas it is estimated that during this decade more than 150,000 women will be diagnosed with cervical cancer in the United States;

Whereas according to the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program of the National Cancer Institute, when cervical cancer is detected at an early stage, the five-year survival rate is 91 percent;

Whereas in most cases cervical cancer is a preventable disease yet is one of the leading causes of death among women worldwide;

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the mortality rate among American women with cervical cancer declined during the period 1960 through 1997, but now has begun to rise;

Whereas clinical studies have confirmed that the human papillomavirus (HPV) is a major cause of cervical cancer and unknown precursor lesions; and

Whereas cervical cancer survivors have shown tremendous courage and determination in the face of adversity: Now, therefore, be it